

**HB56 ENROLLED**



1 L646YA-2  
2 By Representative Holk-Jones  
3 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions  
4 First Read: 07-Mar-23  
5 PFD: 06-Mar-23  
6 2023 Regular Session



## HB56 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2  
3 Relating to the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners;  
4 to amend Section 34-30-3, Code of Alabama 1975, and to add  
5 Section 34-30-34 to the Code of Alabama 1975; to provide  
6 further for the scope of practice of licensees.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

8 Section 1. Section 34-30-3 of the Code of Alabama 1975,  
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 "§34-30-3

11 (a) No-person individual may engage in the independent  
12 clinical practice of social work unless he or she ~~is~~ satisfies  
13 all of the following:

14 (1) ~~Licensed~~ Is licensed under this chapter as ~~a~~  
15 ~~licensed~~ an independent clinical social worker; ~~and~~.

16 (2) Has a doctorate or master's degree from a school of  
17 social work approved, accredited, or in candidacy granted by  
18 the Council on Social Work Education; ~~and~~.

19 (3) Has had two years' full-time or three years'  
20 part-time postgraduate experience under appropriate  
21 supervision in the specified social work method or four years'  
22 full-time or five years' part-time postgraduate experience  
23 under appropriate supervision in the speciality in which the  
24 applicant will practice.

25 (4) Has passed an examination prepared by the board for  
26 this purpose; except, that prior to the time that an  
27 examination is prepared by the board for this purpose, no  
28 ~~person~~ individual who otherwise meets the requirements of this



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29 section will be prohibited from engaging in the private  
30 independent practice of social work; ~~and.~~

31 (5) Has been issued by mail a certified letter of  
32 certification stating his or her qualification for private  
33 independent practice by the board; ~~and.~~

34 (6) Has paid an initial certification fee set by the  
35 board.

36 (b) The scope of practice of a licensed independent  
37 clinical social worker includes the authority to diagnose and  
38 develop treatment plans. The scope of practice does not  
39 include the diagnosis, treatment, or provision of advice to a  
40 client for problems or complaints relating to conditions  
41 outside the boundaries of the practice of social work.

42 (c) For the purposes of this section, the terms  
43 diagnose and treatment, whether considered in isolation or in  
44 conjunction with the rules of the board, may not be construed  
45 to permit the performance of any act which a licensed clinical  
46 social worker is not educated or trained to perform including,  
47 but not limited to, any of the following:

48 (1) Administering and interpreting psychological tests  
49 or intellectual, neuropsychological, personality, or  
50 projective instruments.

51 (2) Admitting any individual to a hospital for  
52 treatment of any condition that is outside the boundaries of  
53 the practice of social work, as provided in subsection (b).

54 (3) Treating any individual in a hospital setting  
55 without medical supervision.

56 (4) Prescribing medicinal drugs.



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57 (5) Authorizing clinical laboratory procedures or  
58 radiological procedures.

59 (6) Using electroconvulsive therapy.

60 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
61 create a requirement that any health benefit plan, group  
62 insurance plan, policy, or contract for health care services  
63 that covers hospital, medical, or surgical expenses, health  
64 maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations,  
65 medical service organizations, physician-hospital  
66 organizations, or any other individual, firm, corporation,  
67 joint venture, or other similar business entity that pays for,  
68 purchases, or furnishes group health care services to  
69 patients, insureds, or beneficiaries in this state, including  
70 entities created pursuant to Article 6, commencing with  
71 Section 10A-20-6.01 of Chapter 20, Title 10A, Code of Alabama  
72 1975, provide coverage or reimbursement for the services  
73 described or authorized in this section."

74 Section 2. Section 34-30-34 is added to the Code of  
75 Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

76 §34-30-34.

77 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize  
78 any individual licensed under this chapter to practice  
79 medicine or to describe or label any test, report, or  
80 procedure as psychological or as a psychological evaluation.

81 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the first  
82 day of the third month following its passage and approval by  
83 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was passed by the House 11-Apr-23.

John Treadwell  
Clerk

Senate

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**25-Apr-23**

Passed